

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES ALONG EAST COAST OF BLACK SEA

1. SUMMARY. DURING CHECK OF FOOD AVAILABILITY PRICES IN BATUMI, POTI, TUAPSE, AND NOVOROSIYSK APRIL 25-27 EMBOFF AND ACCOMPANYING WIFE FOUND WILDLY DIFFERING AVAILAITY IN CITIES OF FRESH MEAT AND FIRST QUALITY BREAD PRODUCTS. TAUPSE HAD NO MEAT, BUT AN APPARENT OVERSUPPLY OF FLOUR; BATUMI WAS MAKING DO WITH COARSE BREAD AND HAD NOT ONLY A GOOD SUPPLY OF BEEF BUT OF VEAL AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CHECK THROUGH STORES AND THE "RYNEK" (FARMERS' MARKET) IN BATUMI APRIL 25 BETWEEN 10:00 AND 11:00 A.M. EMBOFF FOUND BEEF AND EVEN VEAL AVAILABLE IN GENERALLY GOOD QUANTITIES, THOUGH NO OTHER FRESH MEATS OF ANY KIND. MEAT STORES AT 34 AND 43 ULITSA LENINA HAD SECOND GRADE BEEF AT R.1.60-2.00 A KILO AND SEVERAL VARIETIES OF SAUSAGE AND KOLBASA AT PRICES RANGING FROM 2.00 TO 3.20. THE FORMER STORE HAD VEAL IN LIMITED SUPPLY AT R.3.50. SECOND GRADE BEEF WAS AVAILABLE IN GOOD SUPPLY AT THE CITY RYNOK AT AN ASKED PRICE OF R.3.00. THE RYNOK HAD A GOOD SUPPLY OF

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VEAL AT R.4.00, AND SUCKLING WHOLE PIGS IN VERY LIMITED

SUPPLY AT R25.00 APIECE. EGGS WERE AVAILABLE IN BATUMI ONLY AT THE RYNOK, AND THERE ONLY IN LIMITED SUPPLY AT 20 KOPECKS APIECE. BREAD IN SEVERAL BREAD STORES CHECKED APPEARED UNUSUALLY COARSE AT 30 KOPECKS A KILO FOR REGULAR OR 45 KOPECKS A KILO FOR GEORGIAN LOAVES. FISH WAS WIDELY AVAILABLE AT 1.00 TO 1.20 A KILO. ILLUSTRATIVE PRICES FROM THE RYNOK; POTATOES (SMALL) -- 50 KOPECKS/KILO; APPLES (GOOD SUPPLY) -- R3.50 KILO; LETTUCE (LIMITED SUPPLY) -- R15.00 KILO; SMALL CUCUMBERS (LIMITED SUPPLY WITH CUSTOMERS STANDING IN LINE) -- R6.00 KILO; ONIONS -- R.300/4.00 PER KILO; CABBAGE-- R2.00/KILO; PEARS (LIMITED SUPPLY) -- R5.00/KILO.

3. DURING ONE-HOUR STOPOVER IN POTI APRIL 25 AT 1800 HOURS EMBOFF NOTED IN PRODUKTY STORE NEAR THE PORT COARSE BREAD IN GOOD SUPPLY AT 30 KOPECKS/KILO. MEAT DISPLAY CASES WERE COMPLETELY EMPTY.

4. IN TAUPSE AT 1300 HOURS APRIL 26 BREAD STORE AT 12 KARLA MARKSA OFFERED A GOOD SUPPLY OF BREAD NOT OF FIRST QUALITY AT 14-20 KOPECKS/KILO, WITH FIRST QUALITY ROLLS AND FINNER BREADS SELLING FOR APPROXIMATELY TWICE THAT PRICE AT PIECE RATES RATHER THAN BY WEIGHT. GOOD PASTRY WAS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN STORES AND AT STREET STANDS IN STRIKING ABUNDANCE. A FISH AND MEAT STORE AT 20 KARLA MARKSA HAD NO MEAT AT ALL, OFFERED NUMEROUS VARIETIES OF FISH AT 40 KOPECKS-R1.00 PER KILO FOR FROZEN, R1.00-1.50 FOR FRESH. A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORE AT 14 KARLA MARKSA HAD NO FRESH ITEMS AT ALL, THOUGH EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF CANNED ITEMS.

5. IN NOVOROSIYSK APRIL 27 BETWEEN 10:00 AND 11:00 THE RYNOK OFFERED NO BEEF OR FRESH MEAT OF ANY KIND, BUT WAS SELLING FISH AT 1.20-2.50 A KILO. LONG LINES WERE WAITING FOR PIGS EARS AND FEET AT UNDETERMINED PRICE. BREAD STORE NUMBER 37 IN THE CITY OFFERED ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF WHITE BREAD AT 20 KOPECKS A KILO; BROWN AT 13 KOPECKS A LOAF; AND LARGE WHITE LOAVES AT 24 KOPECKS APIECE. ILLUSTRATIVE PRICES IN THE RYNOK: CABBAGE --R1.80/KILO; CUCUMBERS -- R6.00/KILO; CARROTS (LIMITED SUPPLY) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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R2.00/
KILO; LEMONS -- 35 KOPECKS APIECE; APPLES (VERY LIMITED SUPPLY) -- R2.30 KILO. THE FISH STORE (NUMBER 57) ULITSA OVETOVA ATTRACTED LONG LINES WITH AN UNDETERMINED VARIETY OF FISH SELLING AT R2.50/KILO.
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